

Agency Information

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JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
MIAMI WINTER SEASON

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-75147-29)

DATE: 9/19/58

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (62-1273) ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MIAMI WINTER SEASON
1958-1959

1 - copies made

ReBuairtel 8/13/58.

for review at FBIHQ by
HSCA re 6-20-77 request.
(See Bufile #62-117290)GAMBLING

POTENTIAL CRIMINAL INFORMANT

HERB RAU, PCI, advised a gambling game involving dice and roulette has been in operation on the second floor of a building housing George's Restaurant on Collins Avenue, between 74th and 75th Street, Miami Beach. He said the patrons had to walk through the restaurant and at the rear of the building they were met by a colored porter who escorted them to a stepladder which was used to climb into a second story window. He commented that there was no entrance, either front or rear, to the second floor of this building. He also advised that a patron had to exhibit a key top to the porter as identification.

RAU also advised that RUBIN ZERLIN, auditor for the Casablanca Hotel, Miami Beach, in endeavoring to promote among hotel owners and others a program to have gambling legalized in hotels which possess 300 rooms or more.

MARTIN DARDIS, Chief of Police, North Bay Village, advised he learned recently that the Racquet Club, an exclusive private club in North Bay Village, has as one of its members RICHARD MARVIN, a New York City gambler. He advised the management of the club was aware of MARVIN's New York City address, but they knew nothing else about him except that he apparently was a big gambler as in the past he has had sizeable sums of money placed over night in their safe. He related it was his understanding that MARVIN had spent considerable time around Saratoga Springs, N.Y., while the race track was in operation in the past fall season.

MM 665-PC advised that when he was in Havana, Cuba, recently he spent some time visiting with CHARLES FOURINE and his wife. He stated they spent an evening at the Riviera

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rec'd - Legat, Havana, via 0-25 (Info)
9/25/58 JSD/rjc

EXP. PROC.

MM 62-1273

Hotel casino in Havana and on that occasion Mrs. TOURINE wore various pieces of jewelry of value, in his estimation around \$800,000.00. When in New York City during August, 1958, he was informed by a friend whom he has always found reliable and who was an acquaintance of Mrs. TOURINE for years, that prior to her marriage to TOURINE, she was one of the wealthiest women in Cuba. He said the TOURINES recently purchased a cooperative apartment in Havana near the Malcon and their individual apartment had 11,000 square feet of space.

Informant said he also found out that TOURINE is a very religious individual and he seriously would have liked to visit the Pope in Rome, Italy, when he and his wife were on a world tour the past summer. TOURINE told him that he considered going to Rome, Italy, but felt that some of the individuals expelled from the U.S. would in some manner cause them difficulty if they found that he was in Italy. TOURINE has FBI No. 695716 and at the present time owns a piece of the gambling casino in the Capri Hotel, Havana, Cuba.

MM 665-PC said on this occasion he did not see TOURINE's son in Havana and when he asked where CHARLES TOURINE, JR. was, he was informed by TOURINE that his son was presently working in a gambling establishment in Manila, Philippine Islands. C U A A

This informant also advised that HARRY BROOKS, a former Cleveland and Miami Beach gambler, had been to the west coast and Mexico recently and when he returned to Miami, BROOKS informed the informant that he had received approval from the Mexican authorities to open up a gambling establishment along the California border. MM 665-PC stated that on 9/9/58 BROOKS was going to Havana, Cuba, to discuss the matter with CHARLES TOURINE. CHIC
FLA
CALIF

The informant also advised some Italian men, unknown to him at this time, are endeavoring to set up an early morning gambling game at the "C" Club, located on Bird Road in southwest Miami. He said this is a private club which changed hands about six months ago. As far as he could determine, he said the dice games would start at 2:00 A.M. and last until shortly before noon the same day. FLA

PROSTITUTION

HERB RAU, PCI, advised that RUTH LICHTENSTEIN BARNETT, was ROSE MILLER and Madam SHERRY, formerly a well known madam in Miami, is now operating in Havana, Cuba. He stated a select number of cab drivers in Havana possess the address of Madam SHERRY's house. He also stated he was told that Madam SHERRY made an attempt to get in contact with BUNNY BACON at Miami and have him obtain some profitable clientele for her. RAU related that BACON's whereabouts are unknown as he had moved from the Miami area after his wife, EMILY BACON, had secured a divorce about a year ago. RAU pointed out that BACON and his wife had been prominent in the society columns for some years prior to a year ago.

Madam SHERRY was last convicted at Miami on 12/21/54 in U.S. District Court for perjury. She was sentenced to a year and a day and after conviction, was released on bail pending appeal. She subsequently skipped her bond and went to Mexico where she was apprehended and returned to the United States. She was convicted of jumping her bail and received a 30 day sentence on that charge on 6/5/56, which was to run consecutive to the previous perjury conviction of one year and one day.

HOODLUM HANGOUTS

MM 665-PC, who is residing temporarily at the Garden of Allah Motel, Miami Beach, advised the Italian racketeers are endeavoring to purchase this motel. He said the land upon which the motel is built is owned by FRANK A. KATZENTINE, an attorney who has interest in a radio station and in the Crime Commission of Greater Miami. He related that the motel is presently owned by MAURICE "RED" POLLOCK and is in financial difficulty. He said that POLLOCK has outstanding obligations over a million dollars and is indebted to him for \$20,000.

Informant related that JOE MEROLA, a thief and a very close friend of SAM MANNARINO, as well as his brother GABRIEL, both racketeers from New Kensington, Pa., visit there occasionally. MEROLA, he said, told him that he loaned POLLOCK \$30,000 but POLLOCK admitted to the informant borrowing \$20,000 from MEROLA. MM 665-PC said he has learned that MEROLA is forcing himself to the front and has offered some of the creditors 30¢ on a dollar. Informant said he was

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advised by a close friend that MEROLA has been endeavoring to force POLLOCK out of the motel. According to this friend, KATZENTINE told him MEROLA said he had raised \$225,000 so far in order to get control of the motel.

MM 665-PC said POLLOCK and MEROLA were going to New York City the past weekend for the purpose of raising some funds but that POLLOCK changed his mind the last minute when he, POLLOCK, found out MEROLA and other eastern Italians intended to eventually force him out of the motel. The informant said POLLOCK for years has been close to the hoodlum element and particularly those from Chicago. He said since MEROLA has resided there some eastern hoodlums, unknown to him, have visited the motel and made it their hang-out.

The informant learned that MEROLA has been making extensive renovations to his home at 2018 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, and so far, has spent about \$20,000 for repairs. He also said that MEROLA drives a Cadillac automobile and owns a yacht which houses five to seven persons. Other informants have advised that MEROLA is the front man for the MANNARINO group and that the MANNARINOS have a financial interest in the motel.

FLA
JOE MEROLA comes from Pittsburgh, Pa., has FBI No. 4989299, is a jewel thief, and has been residing at the motel for the last nine months, at least. POLLOCK's ex-wife, LEE JACOBRE, a showgirl, is now married to JOE FISCHETTI, formerly of Chicago, and presently residing at North Bay Village, Fla., a top hoodlum of the Miami Office. SAM MANNARINO has FBI No. 115840 and GABRIEL MANNARINO has FBI No. 854850. The MANNARINOS allegedly control all forms of gambling in the New Kensington, Pa. area. They also possess other business interests; such as an outdoor theater, a scrap iron company, real estate and a vending and pinball distribution business in the same area.

LABOR FUNDS

RALPH MILLS, Assistant Counsel of the United States Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field, advised that JAMES HOFFA's Teamsters

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Union on 5/29/57 made a loan of \$750,000 to the ~~JOE HART~~ Properties, who own the ~~Castaways Motel~~, 163rd Street and Collins Avenue, in Dade County. He said the owners of the motel also took over the notes on an old mortgage amounting to \$500,000, and on 3/15/58 made another loan from the Teamsters Union for \$5,000 which was to be used in the construction of 132 new units. In all, he said the ~~JOE HART~~ Properties owe the Teamsters Union \$1,750,000.

Informant also stated that prior to making the last loan, the motel had to make a payment of \$101,500 per year to take care of interest, rent and principal. He said as a result of the last loan, the present payment per year is \$201,500, which covers interest, rent and principal.

HOODLUMS IN THE MIAMI AREA

MM 650-C advised WILLIE HARRIS has acquired a half interest in the cocktail lounge of the Riviera Motel, 2080 South Ocean Drive, Hallandale, Fla.

ROY ~~LONGBOTTOM~~, Deputy Sheriff, Dade County, Fla., advised ~~WILLIE HARRIS~~, FBI No. 497131, has a financial interest in the cocktail lounge of the Monaco and Carib Motels in Dade County. He also advised that he has received information that WILLIE HARRIS is loaning money at excessive interest rates to small businessmen and he recently observed HARRIS make a loan to BILL CHASE, a real estate operator at 400 East Beach Boulevard, Hallandale, Fla. In addition, he related that ~~MOE ROCKFELD~~, FBI No. 291641, is fronting for HARRIS in the operation of the cocktail lounge in the Blue Bay Motel, Miami Beach. FLA

MM 509-C stated that ~~HARRY KIRSCHBAUM~~, ~~WHITEY~~ MARCUS and A. B. ~~BROWN~~ were presently working for ~~JOE INDELICATO~~, wa. ~~JOE SCOOTCH~~, in the Shylocking business. He advised that these individuals hang out at Pumpernik's Restaurant, Miami Beach.

~~WHITEY~~ MARCUS is a bookmaker and close associate of ~~JOE FISCHETTI~~. ~~KIRSCHBAUM~~ is a local gambler and Shylock. ~~INDELICATO~~ has FBI No. 561964 and is a Shylock and operates the Sunshine State Transportation Company, Miami Beach. ~~INDELICATO~~ is a close associate of ~~JOE MASSEI~~, FBI No. 597894, and ~~ALFRED GEORGE FELICE~~, FBI No. 95186.

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MM 656-C stated that ~~PHIL~~ FERRARI, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, and now residing at Miami Beach, is doing some Shylocking and the funds he is using come from TONY SALERNO. Informant stated that FERRARI obtains \$120.00 for every \$100.00 he loans. SALERNO is from New York City and allegedly has an interest in the numbers racket in New York with MIKE COPPOLA, FBI No. 677976, who is a top hoodlum of the Miami Office. FLA

Extra copies are being transmitted so that the Bureau may forward the two copies to the Legat, Havana, for information.